

Minutes

Richmond Elder Affairs Commission

April 10, 2017 – Council Chambers, Town Hall

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by Chairperson, Iva Lipton.

Present at the meeting were:

Absent:

Iva Lipton, Chairperson
Jennifer Lee
Lorraine Sidelinger
Mark Trimmer, Town Council Liaison

Melania van der Hoof

Also present:

Jackie Kenyon, Resident

The meeting was called to order by Iva Lipton at 9:15 a.m.

The members reviewed the minutes of March 7, 2017. Iva noted a correction regarding the trip to Warren's Bargains for the Memorial Garden, and Lorraine so noted and had made the correction to the minutes of March 7th. Jennifer Lee moved, seconded by Iva Lipton to approve the minutes as amended.

Iva introduced Mark Trimmer, our liaison with the Town Council.

Mark then reported on the following:

The Chariho Budget Referendum will be voted on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mark stated that Paul Michaud, President of the Town Council is working on changing the charter so that in the case of an overflow of children in Richmond, the Towns of Hopkinton and Charlestown would accept our students. If the budget is approved as it stands, we may have to make cuts to the police and municipal departments.

He also reported that he and Karen Pinch, Town Administrator will be today with representative of Care New England to discuss the feasibility of opening an emergency care facility in the Town. One of the possible locations is the former Walgreen building.

Mark also informed us that Prospect Medical Holdings, a for-profit California corporation in cooperation with CharterCare Health Services, has recently purchased Fatima and St. Joseph's Hospitals. Since the Fatima facility is in dire need of repairs, they are looking for another location. Perhaps, they might consider Richmond.

Mark reported that representative from the Town will meet with Vibco Industrial, a manufacturer of industrial vibrators in Town to see about starting an internship program with the students of Chariho Vocational Technical School.

Mark would also like to see about starting an "Adopt A Highway" program in the Town. Perhaps we could get the local political parties involved.

Iva reported on the Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island program. We have a new signed contract from April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018. Iva stated that since the Richmond Senior Center is covering pickups there have been no problems.

Iva reported that there were no financial transactions since the last meeting.

Iva will follow-up on plantings for the Memorial Garden. Mark offered his services if we need a truck to move plantings.

Mark noted that he has a friend that is doing his Master thesis at URI on architectural landscaping using the Town of Richmond as his subject matter.

Jennifer reported on the March 20, 2017 Affordable Housing meeting. She stated that there has been no progress on the Richmond Ridge f/k/a Shannock Falls project. Also, there are concerns with the Fox Ridge project that they will not be offering any affordable housing.

Iva reported that there is no new correspondence.

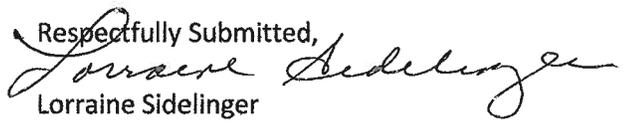
Jackie brought to the Commission that the local YMCA had offered in the past to build a new facility in Town with an addition that would service the senior center if the Town would provide the land. Jackie noted that she plans to bring it before the Council again to see where that proposal stands. A discussion then followed. Mark asked if there was a local Chamber of Commerce or Rotary Club that could help with promoting our Town.

Under Old Business, Iva reported that we have an article from Dennis McGinnity of the Richmond Senior Center. She is waiting on articles from Paul Marchand, President of the Town Council, Elwood Johnson, Police Chief and regarding an article on the Washington County Fair. The committee decided that we should hold a workshop on April 20, 2017 to finalize the newsletter.

Iva reported that she met with Dennis McGinnity regarding combining the Elders Commission and the Richmond Senior Center. Dennis was not in favor of this. Lorraine noted that her intention was not that the groups combine, but that perhaps we could work together so that there was not a duplication of programs for the seniors in our community.

Iva requested that we give permission for her to begin plans on the Meal on Wheels Appreciation Luncheon to be held sometime in May at the Pinehurst Golf Club. Volunteer drivers, Town Administrator and Town Council Liaison will be some of the invitees.

Jennifer Lee moved, seconded by Lorraine Sidelinger to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorraine Sidelinger
Secretary